

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS  
PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M837

Records of the  
Nevada Superintendency  
of Indian Affairs  
1869-1870



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON 1972

**RICHARD NIXON**

*President of the United States*

**ARTHUR F. SAMPSON**

*Acting Administrator of General Services*

**JAMES B. RHOADS**

*Archivist of the United States*

The records reproduced in the microfilm publication

are from

Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Record Group 75

in the National Archives Building

RECORDS OF THE  
NEVADA SUPERINTENDENCY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
1869-1870

On the one roll of this microfilm publication are reproduced three volumes and a number of unbound records of the Nevada Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1869-70.

From 1789 to 1824 Indian affairs were administered in the Office of the Secretary of War. In 1824 a separate agency, the Office of Indian Affairs, was created in the War Department. In 1849 the Office of Indian Affairs was transferred to the Department of the Interior, and in 1947 it was renamed the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

During the 19th century superintendencies and agencies were the two principal field jurisdictions of the Office of Indian Affairs. Superintendents had general responsibility for Indian affairs in a specific geographical area. Their duties included supervision of relations between the Government and the citizens of the United States and the Indian tribes, and of the conduct and accounts of the Indian agents within their jurisdiction. Agents were usually responsible for the affairs of a tribe or reservation.

The Nevada Superintendency was established in 1861 with the organization of Nevada Territory from the western part of Utah. It remained in operation until 1870 when it was discontinued. The principal tribes living in Nevada were the Paiute, Washo, and Shoshoni.

The Territorial Governor served as ex officio superintendent until a separate superintendent was appointed after Nevada became a State in 1864. The superintendency headquarters was located at Carson City.

For much of the existence of the Nevada Superintendency there was only one regularly established agency in Nevada. This was the Nevada Agency, a continuation of the Carson Valley Agency of the Utah Superintendency, which was established in 1858 for the Paiute and Washo Indians. The Walker River and Pyramid Lake (or Truckee) Reservations in western Nevada also came under the jurisdiction of the Nevada Agency. The agent usually made his headquarters at Carson City, and farmers resided on each of the reservations.

In 1869 the South East Nevada, or Pi-Ute, Agency was established for the Paiute Indians living in southeastern Nevada and adjacent parts of Arizona and Utah. The agency was located briefly at St. Thomas and Hiko, and finally at Pioche. A third agency was established for the Western, Northwestern, and Goship

Shoshoni Indians in 1871 after the Nevada Superintendency was discontinued.

Although the Nevada Superintendency was established in 1861, there are records for only the period of service of the last superintendent, Maj. Henry Douglas, 1869-70. These records cover most aspects of Indian affairs in Nevada Territory during that period. Subjects include enforcement of treaties, annuities and other payments to the Indians, farming, improvements, depredations, construction of buildings, purchase and transportation of supplies, conduct of employees, and accounts. Most of the correspondence of the superintendent was with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the agents in the superintendency, and the farmers on the reservations, but there is some correspondence with citizens of the Territory, suppliers, contractors, Army officers, and other Government officials.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication consist of four series of records of the Nevada Superintendency:

1. Letters Received, 1869-70. The letters are arranged by year and thereunder by the number assigned each letter as it was received by the superintendent's office. A numerical register of the letters received precedes the index to letters sent in Letterbook A and follows the index to letters sent in Letterbook B (see series 2, Letters Sent, 1869-70). The register entries give the name of the writer of the letter, the date it was written, and a brief statement of the contents. Agents reports, some receipts and other enclosures, and a few telegrams are also included.

2. Letters Sent, 1869-70. Two volumes of handwritten copies of letters sent by the superintendent. Arranged chronologically. There is an alphabetical index to names of addresses and subjects at the beginning of each volume. Also in each volume is a register of the letters received for the period covered by that volume (see series 1, Letters Received, 1869-70). Blank numbered pages have not been filmed.

3. Miscellaneous Records, 1869-70. Consist of copies of the superintendent's statistical reports, contracts, proposals, building specifications and plans, and bonds. These records are divided into two categories, reports and other records, and thereunder are arranged chronologically.

4. Account Book of Disbursements and Receipts, 1869-70. One volume of accounts current, building funds, farming expenses, purchases, salaries, treaty disbursements, and other expenditures. Blank numbered pages have not been filmed.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication are part of the records in the National Archives designated as Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75. Related records in the same record group include Registers of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-80 (M18), Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-80 (M234), Letters Sent by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-81 (M21), Report Books of the

Office of Indian Affairs, 1838-85 (M348), Documents Relating to the Negotiation of Ratified and Unratified Treaties with Various Indian Tribes, 1801-69 (T494), and Records of the Utah Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1853-1870 (M834).

Records have also been microfilmed for other superintendencies: Michigan, 1814-51 (M1), New Mexico, 1849-80 (T21), Oregon, 1848-73 (M2), Washington, 1853-74 (M5), Southern Superintendency, 1832-70 (M640), and Arizona, 1863-73 (M734).

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication were prepared by Jeanne Schauble, who also wrote these introductory remarks.



LIST OF OFFICIALS  
1869-70  
AND  
DATES OF APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Ely S. Parker Apr. 21, 1869

Superintendent of Indian Affairs

Maj. Henry Douglas Sept. 22, 1869

Agents

Nevada Agency

Lt. Jesse M. Lee June 28, 1869  
(special)

South East Nevada Agency

Capt. Reuben N. Fenton Aug. 5, 1869  
(special)

Farmers

(Pyramid Lake or Truckee)

L. Bass Dec. 20, 1869  
J. McCormick Aug. 25, 1870

(Shoshoni)

Gheen, Levi Jan. 15, 1870



CONTENTS

Roll

Description

1

Letters Received, 1869-70

Letters Sent, 1869-70

Miscellaneous Records, 1869-70

Account Book of Disbursements and Receipts,  
1869-70